

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS**U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/591,508****IN THE CLAIMS:**

Cancel claims 1, 6, 8, 13 and 14.

Amend claims 2, 7, 9 and 15:

2. (Amended) [The method according to Claim 1, further comprising] A method for grinding a magnetic member, comprising:

a first step of grinding a magnetic member by grinding means having an edge including heat resistant resin and super hard abrasive grain while supplying grinding fluid to a grinding region;

a second step of magnetically separating sludge from the grinding fluid drained from the grinding region; and

a third step of separating the sludge from the grinding fluid by magnetic coagulation and subsequent sedimentation of the sludge.

7. (Amended) [The method according to Claim 6, wherein the sludge is further separated] A method for treating waste fluid, comprising:

a step of separating sludge containing a rare-earth alloy from waste fluid by using magnetic separation means having a surface magnetic flux density not smaller than 0.25 T; and

a step of separating the sludge from the waste fluid by magnetic coagulation and subsequent sedimentation of the sludge.

9. (Amended) [The apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising] An apparatus for grinding a magnetic member, comprising:

grinding operation means for grinding a magnetic member by using grinding means having an edge including heat resistant resin and super hard abrasive grain while supplying grinding fluid to a grinding region;

magnetic separation means for separating sludge from the grinding fluid drained from the grinding region; and

a tank disposed on a downstream side of the magnetic separation means, for reception of the grinding fluid and sedimentation of magnetically coagulated sludge.

15. (Amended) A rare-earth magnet obtained by using a grinding method: the method comprising: a first step of grinding a magnetic member by grinding means having an edge including heat resistant resin and super hard abrasive grain while supplying grinding fluid to a grinding region, [and] a second step of magnetically separating sludge from the grinding fluid drained from the grinding region, and a third step of separating the sludge from the grinding fluid by magnetic coagulation and subsequent sedimentation of the sludge.

Add claims 16 and 17:

16. A method for grinding a magnetic member, comprising:

a first step of grinding a Nd-Fe-B rare-earth alloy by grinding means having an edge including heat resistant resin and super hard abrasive grain while supplying grinding fluid to a

grinding region:

a second step of magnetically separating fine-particle sludge from the grinding fluid

drained from the grinding region; and

a third step of separating the sludge from the grinding fluid by magnetic coagulation
and subsequent sedimentation of the sludge.

17. A method for grinding a magnetic member, comprising:

a first step of grinding a rare-earth alloy which includes a hard primary phase and
a tough grain boundary phase by grinding means having an edge including heat resistant region
and super hard abrasive grain while supplying grinding fluid to a grinding region;

a second step of magnetically separating sludge from the grinding fluid drained
from the grinding region; and

a third step of separating the sludge from the grinding fluid by magnetic coagulation
and subsequent sedimentation of the sludge.

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DATE: March 26, 2002

TO: Examiner Willie BERRY
Group Art Unit: 3723

RE: U.S. Serial No. 09/591,508
Attorney Docket No. 000736

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PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE SAFE AND CLEAR RECEIPT OF ALL PAGES BEING SENT

Dear Examiner Berry:

Attached please find a copy of our proposed amendments to claims 2, 7, 9, 15, cancellation of claims 1, 6, 8, 13 and 14, and proposed added claims 16 and 17 for your review. I look forward to our telephone interview tomorrow, March 27th at 2:00 p.m.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP


Mel R. Quintos

MRQ:lrj

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